

Having previously spent 10 years working in the radio business, I have a pretty good understanding of how things work. Seems to me that the local stations, most of which are now owned by just a handful of conglomerates, have suddenly realized that, "Hey... XM and Sirius aren't going away anytime soon. We gotta stop them! Contact our lobbyists, have them call the Feds and squash this Now! And for God's sake, make sure it looks like we're still going ballistic over that obscene gag Dirk Diggler pulled off this morning on his show!"

While local radio offered up wonderful entertainment like the live remote broadcast in New York City of two people having sex in a Catholic church, XM and Sirius were busy assembling a diverse selection of quality entertainment choices. While the big radio corporations were busy buying up anything and everything with a transmitter attached to it, XM and Sirius were quietly positioning themselves to make a legitimate push for the attention of the listening public.

And now, that push is about to come to shove in the halls of Congress. And local radio knows its in trouble.

The days of being force-fed whatever ClearChannel and similar broadcasting "giants" feel like offering up and, as listeners, having to like it are coming to an end. You can thank XM and Sirius for that.

There's nothing wrong with competition. If the NAB and the oversized corporations behind this nonsense can't handle the heat, they should just get out of the kitchen, and not expect Congress to hand them a fire extinguisher. Better yet, maybe they should program their stations with stuff people actually want to hear. Gee, what a concept!

I strongly urge you to oppose HR4026, and I thank you for your time.